

NOTES ON MYRSINACEAE. I
GENERIC ASSIGNMENT OF CONOMORPHA SODIROANA MEZ,
ARDISIA AMBIGUA MART., AND RELATED SPECIES.*

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While studying the Myrsinaceae I have found that a group of species, which were placed by Mez (in Engler, Pflanzenreich 4, 236. 1902) under the genera Conomorpha and Stylogyne, need reinterpretation as to their generic assignment. These species differ from the typical species of both genera in a combination of characters, on which they better approach the genus Geissanthus, except for the obviously imbricate sepals. Mez considered Geissanthus to be a natural group differing from other genera in that the sepals are at first closed, and rupture into 2 to 8 (usually 3 to 6) regular or irregular segments.

At present, the generic limits in the family are not clear. Both the genera Geissanthus and Stylogyne stand, for the most part, as rather coherent groups. The genera Comomyrsine (a segregate of Weigeltia), Conomorpha, Cybianthus and Weigeltia are no longer separable by the characters used by Mez in his generic key. As to the new taxa published since 1902 their generic assignments have been based mostly on single characters. This apparently artificial treatment has led to a rather vague concept of the genera. Several examples in which authors do not agree as to the interpretations of generic limits could be cited.

In 1908 A. Grosse (in Bot. Jahrb. 41 (5), Beibl. Nr. 96: 1 - 46. 1908) reviewed the anatomy of the family. Despite the fact that the number of names published now doubles that known in 1908, no further contribution has been made to the morphology and anatomy of the American representatives. At present we see no solution regarding the delimitation of the genera Comomyrsine, Conomorpha, Cybianthus, and Weigeltia. It is advisable that the generic assignment of new taxa and the transfers of names among these four genera be avoided until we reach a reasonable agreement.

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The following key may separate Geissanthus and Stylogyne from Conomorpha and its relatives:

1. Inflorescence a terminal panicle. Flowers sessile or on short and stout, rarely elongate and never umbellate pedicels. Calyx lobes first closed, rupturing into 2-8, usually 3-6 regular or irregular segments in anthesis, rarely free and imbricate. Petals valvate or imbricate, usually $1/3$ or more connate. Anthers elongate. Style short or long and stout with a capitulate stigma

Geissanthus

1. Inflorescence axillary, rarely terminal or pseudo terminal, but in the latter cases the pedicels umbellate and/or the petals conspicuously twisted

2. Inflorescence an umbelliform raceme or a panicle. Flowers mostly with umbellate and slender pedicels. Calyx lobes usually dextrocontorted. Petals contorted, usually obviously twisted and connate only at base. Anthers elongate. Style elongate or slender with an inconspicuous stigma

Stylogyne

2. Inflorescence a raceme, rarely a panicle; pedicels never umbellate. Petals imbricate or valvate. Anthers short or elongate. Style short or absent

Comomyrsine, Conomorpha,
Cybianthus & Weigeltia

In the present paper a group of species, most of which have traditionally been placed in Conomorpha, are transferred to Geissanthus. They are characterized by a paniculate terminal inflorescence; an elongate style with a capitulate stigma; stamens with an elongate and free or almost free filament; and by elongate anthers, dehiscing by longitudinal slits reaching the cordate base.

Geissanthus ambiguus (Mart.) Agost., comb. nov.

Ardisia ambigua Martius in A.DC., Prodr. 8: 122.
1844

Stylogyne ambigua (Mart.) Mez in Engler, Pflanzenreich Myrsinaceae 4, 236: 266. 1902

Geissanthus longistylus (Cuatr.) Agost., comb. nov.

Conomorpha longistyla Cuatrecasas, Rev. Acad. Colombiana 8 (31): 319-320. 1951

Geissanthus mezianus Agost., nom. nov.

Conomorpha sodiroana Mez in Engler, Pflanzenreich 4, 236: 254. 1902

The specific epithet is preoccupied (Mez, Bull. L'Herb. Boissier, 2 serie, 5: 534. 1905), and therefore a new name is given in honor of Carl Mez, the author of the monographic work in the family.

Geissanthus myrianthus (Mansf.) Agost., comb. nov.

Conomorpha myriantha Mansf., Notizbl. Bot. Gart. Berlin 9: 467. 1925

Geissanthus pyramidatus (Mez) Agost., comb. nov.

Conomorpha (?) pyramidata Mez in Fedde, Rep. Spec. Nov. 3: 102. 1906